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Tuesday, December 17, 2019 metro.us | t: MetroBOS | f: MetroBo



TOUGH TASK

Brady has had his issues with Bills defense. 5



PIEBALD: Join local faves with new holiday album and shows. 4



A HISTORIC MOMENT

'High crimes and misdemeanors' will likely not end this presidency; some insights into the Republican defense. 2

GETTY IMAGES

THINGS
TO
KNOW

1

Explainer: The case for Trump's impeachment - and the case against it

U.S. President Donald Trump boards Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland on December 14, 2019. REUTERS



Either way, Trump is likely to be acquitted.

The Democratic-controlled U.S. House of Representatives could vote as soon as Wednesday to formally charge President Donald Trump, a Republican, with "high crimes and misdemeanors," making him only the third U.S. president in history to be impeached.

That sets up a trial in January in the Republican-run Senate, where he is expected to be acquitted.

In their articles of impeachment, Democrats charge that Trump abused his power as president by pressuring a foreign government, Ukraine's, to help him win re-election. They accuse the president of endangering the U.S. Constitution, jeopardizing national security and undermining the integrity of the 2020 election.

At the heart of their

impeachment case is testimony by current and former officials alleging an extraordinary effort that went outside official channels to pressure Ukraine to announce a corruption investigation into former Democratic Vice President Joe Biden, a potential political rival in 2020.

The allegations by Trump allies against Biden — that he used his position as vice president to force the removal of a Ukrainian prosecutor to stop an investigation of an energy company on which his son Hunter Biden was a director — have been discredited. Neither Trump nor his allies have provided evidence to support them and Biden has denied them.

Trump pressed Ukraine's new president, Volodymyr Zelensky, in a July 25 phone call to work with his attorney general, William Barr, and his personal attorney, Rudy Giuliani, to investi-

gate the Bidens and also a debunked theory that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016 election.

Democrats allege that the evidence they have gathered in their inquiry shows Trump withheld a high-profile White House meeting and nearly \$400 million in security aid to pressure Zelensky to announce the investigations. Trump ultimately released the money after news of the delay became public, although the White House meeting has yet to take place.

Democrats also charge Trump with obstructing Congress by preventing members of his administration from cooperating with the probe, in defiance of the Constitution.

"If the president can first abuse his power and then stonewall all congressional requests for information, Congress cannot fulfill its duty to act as a check and balance against the executive — and

the president becomes a dictator," House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler said last Wednesday.

The Democrats' case rests in large part on a rough transcript of the July 25 call, in which Trump asks Zelensky to "do us a favor" and work with Barr and Giuliani in carrying out the investigations he sought. Current and former U.S. officials testified that Trump directed them to work with Giuliani on Ukraine issues, despite the fact that the former New York mayor was a private citizen.

U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland provided some of the most damaging testimony. He said he spoke directly with Trump about the effort to pressure Ukraine and said other top administration officials were involved. He testified that Ukrainian officials understood they would have to announce

the investigations in order to get the withheld security aid.

Trump says he has done nothing wrong, and his Republican allies in Congress agree with him. None are expected to vote to impeach him this week.

"You can't make your

cooperate has prevented them from getting the testimony of other officials directly involved in the matter — a central pillar of their obstruction of Congress charge.)

Republicans say no actual exchange of favors took place, because Zel-

"You can't make your case against the president because nothing happened."

Representative Doug Collins

case against the president because nothing happened," Representative Doug Collins, the top Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, said last week.

Republicans have coalesced around the argument that the Democrats' case amounts to hearsay because it mostly relies on the testimony of officials who did not deal directly with Trump. (Democrats say Trump's refusal to

zensky ultimately did get the delayed aid and the meeting with Trump that he sought — albeit on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly — even though the Ukrainian president did not agree to the investigations that Trump wanted.

They argue that Democrats are subverting the will of voters who elected Trump president in 2016 simply because they do not like his policies. REUTERS

Vaping increases the risk of lung disease by a third

2 Using e-cigarettes significantly increases the risk of developing chronic lung conditions such as asthma or emphysema, U.S. researchers said on Monday. The study, published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, is among the first to show the potential long-term harms of using e-cigarettes, which are often promoted as a safer alternative to tobacco and a means of helping smokers quit. It

found that e-cigarettes increased the risk of lung disease by a third compared with those who never smoked or vaped. And the risk was even higher among adults who used both e-cigarettes and smoked tobacco. "E-cigarettes are promoted as harmless and they're not," Stanton Glantz, director of the University of California San Francisco Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education, said. REUTERS

Investigation of Canadian billionaire couple's death

3 The investigation into the deaths of a Canadian pharmaceutical billionaire couple by a private detective hired by the victims' family has been completed, the chief homicide investigator of the Toronto police and the family said in a joint statement on Monday without revealing any of its findings. Police reiterated on Monday that they are treating the case of Barry and Honey Sherman as a

targeted double murder, Detective Sergeant Hank Ildinga told reporters. He called on the public to come forward with tips as the investigation headed by police continues. Sherman was 75 and his wife, 70 at the time of their deaths, which stunned the worlds of business, politics and philanthropy, and drew public condolences from prominent figures including Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. REUTERS

U.S. government extends Obamacare sign-up

4 The U.S. government said on Monday the deadline for signing up for 2020 insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been extended by three days to Dec. 18 to accommodate those who experienced issues while attempting to enroll. There were website glitches and call center delays reported on Sunday, the earlier deadline for the 2020 open enrollment, and the extension should

help the final enrollment tally, said Evercore ISI analyst Michael Newshel. "The post-Thanksgiving ramp-up in sign-ups was better than expected, and the momentum bodes well for the key final surge into the deadline this Sunday, December 15," Newshel said in a note last week. Last year, the number of people who signed up for 2019 health plans fell 4% to 8.5 million people from 2018.

REUTERS

NEWS

Impaired driving campaign blends education, enforcement

Campaign targets drivers 21-39 years - the most likely to cause crashes.

SHNS
letters@metro.us

State public safety officials are urging motorists not to get behind the wheel while under the influence of drugs this holiday season in a campaign that also aims to generate new momentum for the Baker administration's impaired driving legislation.

Through Jan. 1, 2020, the state Executive Office of Public Safety and Security will purchase televised advertisements, gas station TV spots and posters for bars and restaurants warning about the dangers of impaired

driving, focusing on marijuana as legal recreational sales of the substance continue to increase.

The \$220,600 "Wisdom" campaign specifically targets men between the ages of 21 and 39, who are the most likely to cause crashes while driving impaired, according to organizers of the new campaign.

"Our education campaign dispels the myth that you are a better driver if you're under the influence of cannabis," Public Safety Secretary Thomas Turco said. "Impairment by any substance makes you a danger behind the wheel. We trust that the majority of people using cannabis and alcohol will do so responsibly, but strong impaired driving laws are needed for those who continue to put the lives of others at risk."

The state has also



awarded \$270,000 to 125 local police departments to pay for additional patrols targeting drivers impaired by alcohol or drugs during the holiday season.

Last December, 839 people died across the U.S. due to crashes involving an impaired driver, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration, with 285 drunk driving-related fatalities between Christmas and New Year's Day.

Between 2013 and 2017, marijuana was the second-most common substance behind alcohol found in drivers involved in fatal crashes in Massachusetts, officials said.

The office warned that

Massachusetts legalizing recreational marijuana use could increase impaired driving crashes, pointing to an uptick in traffic deaths involving marijuana in Colorado reported by the Rocky Mountain High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area since that state began adult use recreational sales in 2014.

The administration also renewed calls for the Legislature to pass Gov. Charlie Baker's bill (H 71) aiming to give law enforcement new tools to crack down on drug-impaired drivers.

Baker's legislation, based on recommendations from the Special Commission on Operating Under the Influence and Impaired Driving, would extend restrictions similar to those already in place for alcohol impairment to motorists affected by or in possession of marijuana.

Drivers suspected of

marijuana impairment who refuse a chemical test would lose their license for at least six months, and would also be forbidden from having loose or unsealed packages of the substance in their vehicles.

Opponents have argued that, unlike alcohol, tests for marijuana impairment are unreliable.

The Judiciary Committee heard testimony on the bill in November, and the legislation has remained before that panel all year.

Baker signed an unrelated bill into law last month that takes significant steps to prevent distracted driving, banning all cellphone use behind the wheel unless the device is in hands-free mode. The new restrictions take effect Feb. 23, but will not result in fines — which can range between \$100 and \$500 — until March 31.

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We caught up with the band to talk about their first new music in 12 years.

CHRIS ARENA
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The last time Piebald, the beloved Boston emo/indie act, released new music was 12 years ago. In a world of rapid-fire, on-to-the-next-one media and trends, that time off is a lifetime. How does a legacy-band like Piebald fit in the present? Always a group that has done things their own way, on their own terms, Piebald have picked up right where they left off with their own special brand of fun, quirky rock.

However, what set these songs apart from past material is the topic at hand: to coincide with a series of holiday shows,

Piebald recorded a three-song EP of original Christmas material.

Assembled across a long weekend in September, "Piebald Presents To You, A Musical Christmas Adventure" is a fun foray into holiday cheer.

"We knew we were playing these Christmas shows, so Luke [Carro, drums] said, 'Why don't we try to cover or write a Christmas song?' So we said, 'Alright, let's try to do it,'" says Piebald guitarist/singer Travis Shettel. "Leading up to [recording] we were sending each other demos and being like, 'Okay, guys, I have this idea for a song, what do you think about it?' 'Make it more Christmas-y! Throw some sleigh bells on it!'"

Many would ask, why mark your return to new material with three holiday songs? As Shettel tells it, the holiday spirit may have helped take some of the pressure off the writing and recording process. "I think, honestly, it was easier for us to write



these Christmas songs than for us to embark on a Piebald record right now because we haven't done it in a long time. I think it helped ease us into it a little, making music again."

No strangers to bringing tidings of Christmas joy, the new EP and short run of hometown New England holiday shows are something of a return for the band. "We used to do holiday shows in Andover where Andy [Bonner, bass], Aaron [Stuart, guitar/vocals] and I grew up. We did them at the

Town Hall in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004. And then we just stopped doing it," says Shettel. "So I hope that this is a rebirth of that concept; a new old tradition."

In addition to recording the songs, the band created and built elaborate sets for the EP artwork. Over the course of the weekend, the band worked nonstop like Santa's elves to assemble the sets and props for the photoshoot and live shows. "Luke and Aaron spearheaded that idea. They

were like, 'We're gonna build a wall, we're gonna mount our heads on it.' I was like, 'I don't know if we have time, guys.' We ended up having time, but still, those days were very full. We didn't stop," says Shettel. "From when we woke up till 11 o'clock at night we were doing something related to the release or the Christmas shows. It was actually really fun."

The band won't have too much time to relax after the holiday; soon afterward they will be preparing to embark on a set of West Coast shows as direct support for Dashboard Confessional's 20th Anniversary tour. "We had played shows with him [Chris Carrabba/Dashboard Confessional] before and I do remember meeting him in the late '90s or early 2000s in Florida when we were on tour with New Round Glory," recalls Shettel.

"We're very lucky, we're very appreciative that he asked. It's pretty flattering. I'm really excited about those shows, we're going to be playing places that are way too big for us [laughs]."

Initially forming in 1994, the band moved through the '90s and early 2000s post-hardcore and emo scenes, growing into their one-of-a-kind sound. Though the band broke up in 2008, they have

since gotten back together for the occasional festival. In recent years the band has been a little more active with some short tour runs, but as Shettel says, "It's not that easy for us to all schedule time to be together."

Still, this year marks 25 years as a band for a Piebald — no small feat.

As Shettel says, "There are times when other things are happening in life and Piebald can't be on the front burner, that's just how it goes. But we're pretty lucky to have been able to do it for this long. We get frustrated with each other, but for the most part, it's a very loving friendship. We get along well."

That close familial bond is what keeps Piebald moving. As the four of them prepare to hit the road together again, perhaps this is the beginning of a new chapter for the band. "I have a feeling we will make more music. We're going to be traveling in a van for a month together. We're going to be playing music pretty regularly on that tour, so let's try and write some songs. We've been kicking it around and we've just gotta kick it around more."

Piebald will be playing two sold-out shows in town this week at Great Scott, Wednesday, Dec. 18 and Saturday, Dec. 21.

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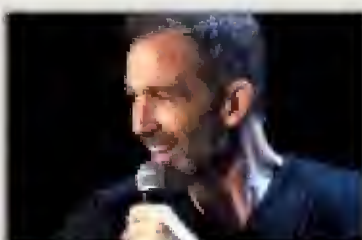
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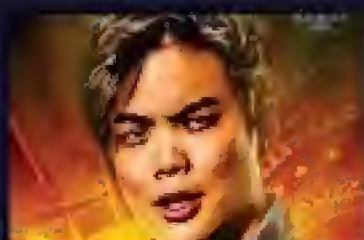
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SPORTS

Bills a major roadblock

Buffalo will invade Gillette Stadium this coming Saturday.



MATT BURKE
matt.burke@metro.us

There is a scenario in which the Patriots do not win the AFC East this year.

If the Bills come into Foxboro on Saturday (4:30 p.m., WBZ) and take down the Pats, if the Pats lose their Week 17 home game against the Dolphins and if the Bills take care of business at home against the Jets in Week 17 – then will we have the first non-Patriots AFC East winner in 11 years.

Buffalo could very well grab a victory this coming weekend, given how well its defense is playing and given how mediocre the New England offense has looked lately.

Tom Brady hasn't posted a game with a 100.0 passer rating since Week 5 at Washington, and in Sunday's 34-13 win over the Bengals he passed for a season-low 128 yards.

Buffalo head coach Sean McDermott has proven to be something of a Brady-stopper, too, as last year (also in Week 16 at Gillette) Brady turned in his worst performance of 2018 (13-of-24 for 126 yards with 1 TD and 2 INTs for a passer rating of 48.3).

In the one meeting so far this season, McDermott's D also flustered Brady – holding him to 18-of-39 passing

for 150 yards, zero TDs and a pick.

Say this for Brady, though: he does not (as Mike Tomlin said about Mason Rudolph) "kill" the Patriots. In fact, he's on pace for his lowest interception total in a season since 2015.

Also, Brady hasn't thrown more than one interception in a game this season.

Last year, Brady had four games in which he threw multiple interceptions.

Sony Run Man

Sony Michel and the Patriots rushing attack looked relatively strong against the Bengals on Sunday as the second year man rushed for 89 yards on 19 carries and the Pats offense registered 175 yards on 32 carries total.

Rex Burkhead, who came up huge in the postseason for the Pats last year, had his best game of the season as well as he rushed for 53 yards on six attempts (8.8 yards per carry). He also found the end zone for the first time since Week 3 against the Jets, when Isaiah Wynn, Matt LaCosse and Shaq Mason opened up a huge lane.

The Pats' run game found its identity late in the season last year, so hopefully for Bill Belichick's crew we're seeing some déjà vu.

Video tape scandal latest

The Kraft Sports and Entertainment producer responsible for the Bengals sideline video gaffe nine days ago released a statement on Sunday night giving his side of the story. David Mondillo, who has been



Tom Brady has had a rough go of it against the Bills defense of late. CETY IMAGES

suspended by Kraft Sports and Entertainment for the incident, said the following:

"On December 8th I was doing what I have done for more than 18 years – working to produce high quality content that tells the unique, behind-the-scenes stories of people, players and the organization. It never occurred to me that my actions and the actions of my crew would be misconstrued. Our department was charged with completing four Do Your Job segments before the end of the

year. One of the segments was to follow a pro scout throughout his week to show the audience what his job entails. Before the shoot began, I obtained permission and received credentials and a parking pass for Sunday's game. With permission in hand, we started taping on December 6th – following the scout's travel through the weekend to Cleveland and obtained footage of him working in his hotel room and interviewed him about his job. The final element needed to complete the story was to shoot from the press box at Progressive Field to show the

audience what his responsibilities are on game day. We went directly to the press box and set up our camera to get the footage we needed. We interviewed and shot the Patriots scout sitting in a chair watching the action and panned back and forth from him to what he was seeing on the sidelines. We also took footage of the field as the intent was to show what he was looking at when he looked through his binoculars watching the game. At that point, I went to the restroom and when I came back, my cameraman was told to stop shooting by

someone from the NFL and he was joined by two others from the Bengals organization and an additional NFL security person. We stopped shooting immediately when asked to do so and cooperated fully. We had a detailed exchange about who we were and why we were there and what they wanted us to do. I gave the Sony SXS card to NFL security and we complied with their request, packed up and went home. I had no intention to provide footage to football operations. I did not provide any footage, and I was never asked to do so."

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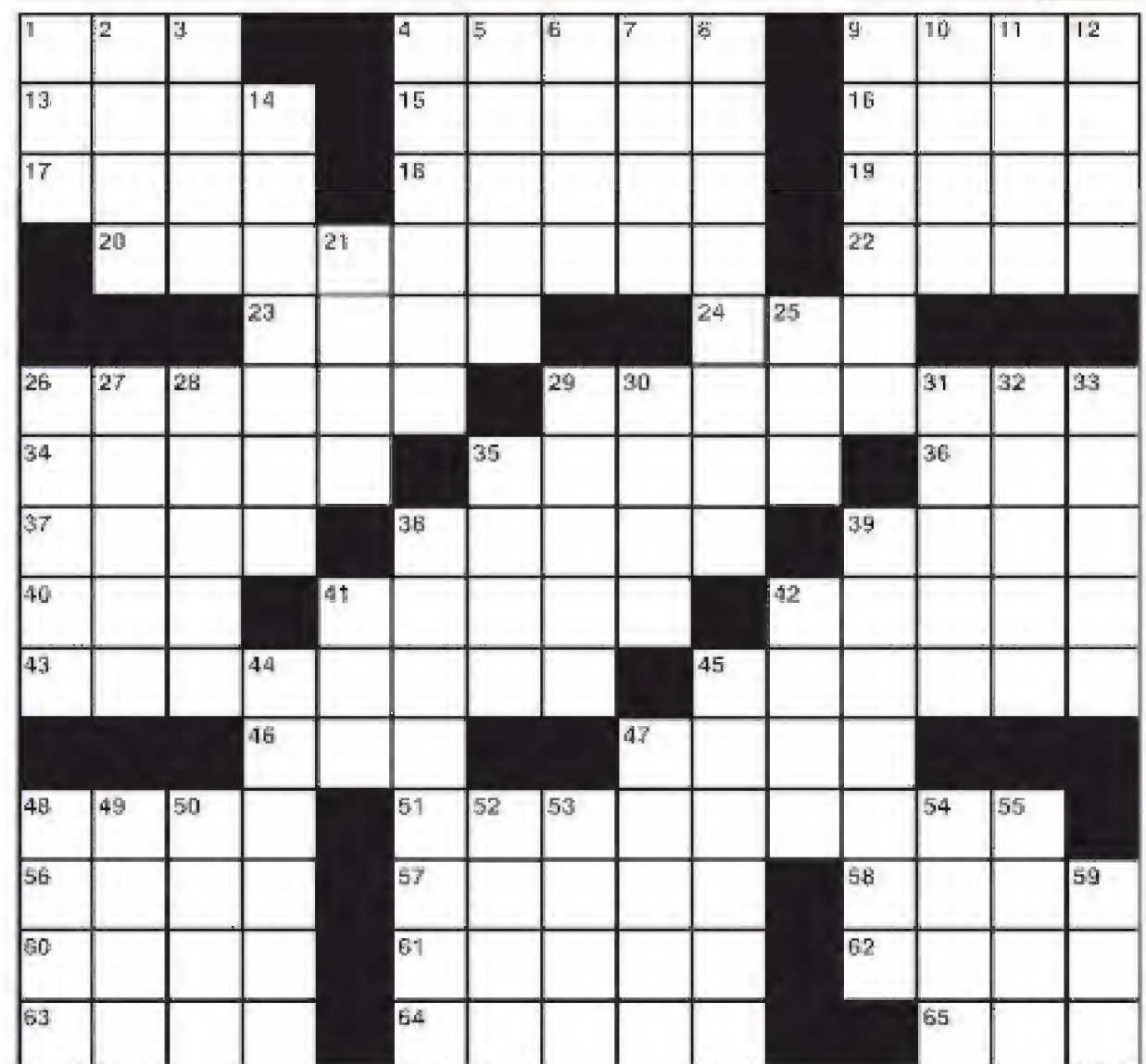
1 Big heart
4 Has none of
9 ___ angle; sloping
13 Candied ___; sweet side dish
15 Sports venue
16 "All You Need Is ___"; Beatles hit
17 Long heroic story
18 Printer cartridge contents
19 Clark Kent's love
20 Objected
22 Cutlass or Alero
23 Cairo's river
24 Debtor's note
26 TV's "Ned and ___"
29 Golf course hazard
34 Refers to
35 Tear to bits
36 Not long ___; recently
37 Painting, dancing, etc.
38 Con artist's ruses
39 Title for old Russian

rulers
40 Luau ring
41 Smacks
42 Liquor
43 Intensify; heighten
45 Raised, as kids
46 High school building
47 Allows
48 Mast
51 Driven; enthusiastic
56 Steel's main component
57 Overdo the role
58 Way out
60 Period before Easter
61 Passenger
62 Run fast
63 Breakfast order
64 Market
65 "Cry ___ River"

DOWN

1 Affirmative vote
2 Cartoonist Al ___
3 Kuwaiti ruler
4 Recently
5 Ascended
6 Penny
7 Part of the leg
8 Tiny canned fishes
9 Total; full-blown
10 Wrench or saw

11 Eager
12 Loch ___ monster
14 Wall candle holders
21 Even scores
25 Peculiar
26 Climb
27 Michelin products
28 Garret
29 In good ___; fit
30 Strong-___; forces physically
31 Shaver's need
32 Staring
33 ___ over; studied intently
35 "Begone!"
38 Jails
39 Roller ___; wild ride
41 Devious
42 Alpha's follower
44 Representatives
45 Venerate
47 British measure
48 Stack
49 "The Beaver State": abbr.
50 Drawn-out
52 Leave out
53 Commotion
54 Reason to study
55 Yahtzee cubes
59 Afternoon social

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Aries Know what you want to do and what your responsibilities are. How you handle others will affect the amount of support and help you are offered.



Taurus Take care of details that can make or break plans for family fun. An enthusiastic attitude will encourage others to pitch in and help. A lifestyle change will give you the boost you need.



Gemini Stick to basics and tell the truth. If you aren't sure about something, sit tight. Emotions will escalate quickly if you let an outsider interfere in personal matters.



Cancer The race is on, and you appear to be in the lead. Don't hesitate or dither, when all that's required is to follow through with your plans until they are complete.



Leo Money issues should not be ignored. Don't feel that you must spend money to make someone love you. Use your charm and have fun, and everything else will fall into place.



Virgo Don't feel that you must agree or side with someone who is putting pressure on you. Have the courage to do what's best for yourself and your loved ones.



Libra A new look at an old concept will lead to a new beginning. Turn one of your ideas into a plan that is geared toward saving more and spending less.



Scorpio A change will be useful for you. Whether it's at home or at work, you'll discover that you can make extra cash doing something you enjoy. Participate and profit.



Sagittarius Listen carefully and consider the source of any information you are given. Get your home ready for the festive season and clear a space for a project you want to start.



Capricorn Take on a little extra work and watch your savings grow. Hang on to your cash instead of spending it on useless items. Innovative gift ideas should be kept well within budget.



Aquarius Don't rely on anyone to do things for you. A change someone makes will be done behind your back. Protect your money, possessions and reputation.




Pisces Certain memories will lead to a sentimental moment. Don't have regrets; learn from your experiences and move forward with a clear head and a good plan. **EXCERPT LAST**

Yesterday's Answers														
V	A	L		S	P	R	A	Y		T	A	F	T	
M	I	N	I	W	A	I	V	E		R	U	L	E	
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